

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by age, year of application, and reason for denial, 1992–2001

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Impairment does not cause severe functional limitations ^a	Able to do usual past work ^b	Able to do other type of work ^b	Other ^c
	Number	Percent						
All ages ^d								
1992	743,395	100.0	7.3	22.1	...	17.5	26.3	26.9
1993	939,490	100.0	6.6	21.2	...	15.4	24.8	31.9
1994	1,043,377	100.0	6.2	20.7	...	13.6	23.3	36.1
1995	993,975	100.0	6.2	19.7	...	12.4	22.4	39.2
1996	937,450	100.0	6.4	20.6	5.8	12.1	22.9	32.2
1997	737,298	100.0	6.9	16.7	16.3	13.0	25.1	22.1
1998	698,742	100.0	6.9	15.0	18.4	14.6	25.2	19.9
1999	679,259	100.0	6.7	14.0	19.3	15.4	24.2	20.4
2000	661,643	100.0	6.5	13.3	18.8	15.3	23.2	22.9
2001	659,351	100.0	6.3	12.7	17.8	15.5	23.7	24.0
Under age 18								
1992	148,324	100.0	1.5	22.7	...	...	...	75.8
1993	240,807	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1994	311,303	100.0	1.4	22.4	...	...	...	76.2
1995	306,174	100.0	1.3	21.8	...	...	...	76.9
1996	291,115	100.0	1.4	26.9	18.7	...	...	53.0
1997	195,556	100.0	1.6	19.1	61.3	...	...	18.0
1998	182,150	100.0	1.3	14.5	70.6	...	...	13.7
1999	181,223	100.0	1.1	13.3	72.3	...	...	13.2
2000	174,822	100.0	1.1	13.3	71.3	...	...	14.3
2001	167,093	100.0	1.1	14.0	70.3	...	...	14.6
Aged 18–64								
1992	594,906	100.0	8.8	21.9	...	21.8	32.8	14.7
1993	698,526	100.0	8.4	21.0	...	20.7	33.4	16.4
1994	731,701	100.0	8.3	20.0	...	19.4	33.2	19.1
1995	687,349	100.0	8.4	18.8	...	17.9	32.4	22.5
1996	645,428	100.0	8.7	17.8	...	17.5	33.2	22.8
1997	540,112	100.0	8.8	15.8	...	17.7	34.2	23.5
1998	512,643	100.0	8.9	15.0	...	19.7	34.3	22.1
1999	494,326	100.0	8.7	14.1	...	20.9	33.3	23.0
2000	483,572	100.0	8.5	13.1	...	20.7	31.7	25.9
2001	489,545	100.0	8.1	12.2	...	20.7	31.9	27.2

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research File, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2002. Data for the hearing level or above are current through July 2002.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

... = not applicable.

a. Used only for applicants under age 18. Category effective for final determinations made August 1996 or later.

b. Used only for applicants aged 18 or older.

c. Applicant provided insufficient evidence, failed to cooperate, failed to follow prescribed treatment, did not want to continue development of the claim, or returned to substantial work before disability could be established. For final determinations made August 1996 or before for applicants under age 18, also includes claims denied because individual functional assessment showed impairment not of comparable severity.

d. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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